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The Pastor Speaks:

TOWARDS A BETTER WORLD

XXX. THE TRUTH OF THE MYSTICAL BODY

9. Why so Late?

THE obvious re-action made at once by many who only now come to know about the astonishing doctrine of the Mystical Body is:

"But why have we not heard of this doctrine before? Why is so little or nothing at all said in the sermons? Why has such a treasure been kept hidden? Why has this magnificent fact been kept a secret from many?"

Almost a New Doctrine

The remark is correct. It is unfortunately true that the Catechism seems to ignore such a sublime doctrine, and thus few have heard of it; and for the larger number of our religiously semi-instructed Catholics, the whole truth comes as a surprise to them, nearly as a new revelation. In many of our seminaries little has been explained to our students and "indeed many a priest may have pursued a whole course of

theology without hearing any reference to this doctrine." (Fr. D. Lord, S.J.). We must, however, say that this doctrine is now new. It is as old as Christ for it is Christ Himself Who has taught it. St. Paul has presented it in a masterly manner. St. Augustine, commenting on Psalm 142, wrote clearly: "The Lord Jesus is, then, the Head and the Body. So has He wished to speak in us, Who deigned to die for us. He has made us His members. He speaks at times in the name of His mem-

bers, at times in His own name ; but always as our Head."

St. Cyril of Alexandria, in the early centuries, emphasised clearly : "To say our bodies are not united with Christ is to contradict the Holy Gospel. No man of good sense will doubt that by such a union it is that Christ is the Vine and we the branches, taking from Him life that we may draw it to ourselves." St. John Chrysostom, St. Ambrose, St. Hilary, and St. Thomas have dealt with this sublime subject. Some modern writers, too, have spoken of our union with Christ. In fact, Christians have always believed in sense of unity with Christ, but we must say with shame, the full import of the truth, and especially the expression 'Mystical Body' which expresses the union so beautifully, have been, so to say, kept hidden and secret, and ring still unfamiliar, strange and new to many, as a matter of fact, to the majority of our Catholics. Why ? "Because," says Fr. Lord, whom we would like to quote again and whom we follow, "because it was almost as if the doctrine of the Mystical Body had been reserved as a stark and sudden exhilarating discovery for our particular age. We needed the doctrine of the Mystical Body. It was the truth particularly demanded by our generation. It was the doctrine that came as an answer to most of our modern problems and a solution for most of the vexing, torturing, disturbing difficulties and unrest that toss the modern man and woman about in emotional uncertainty."

Intervention of Providence

We have already, in a previous article, shown how Divine Providence has acted in the course of centuries, in making a particular truth more clearly defined and understood according to the needs of the time. Here again we have another example of the intervention of Divine Providence in bringing out a particular truth which is needed to strengthen mankind in its faith, to calm the storm of the moment and to bring back men to their senses and to their true end. Yes ! "A gracious Providence, out of the treasury of Christ's truths, seems to draw the precise truth needed at a precise period of history." (Fr. Lord).

But why is the doctrine and truth of the Mystical Body so pressingly needed today ? There is unfortunately a multitude of centrifugal doctrines and a dissonant chorus of stridently disagreeing voices which characterise our typical way of modern emotional thinking. For atheists, God is only a warped and twisted idea with no basis in reality, and thus we cannot speak of Providence, for God (if there is a God) has lost all interest in humanity. For modern philosophers, so called thinkers, God is a God withdrawn from this world. He is hardly a person ; He is remote and aloof. "The world spirit, which is the god of many thinkers, shrouds the universe in clammy impersonality. This is a god without purpose or interest, without love or pity." Confront this affront to the Fatherhood of God with the beautiful and re-assuring truth of the Mystical Body. God has not

tossed away His world. He is not aloof or distant. He sent His beloved Son in the midst of His sons and daughters. He "united Himself with His sons and daughters in the closest possible union of love. . . . He was as close as their own hearts. He united Himself with His creatures in body and soul. He set flowing through them His own divine life."

The truth of the Mystical Body, well understood and lived, "kills for ever the ugly, remote, ironic

god created out of an ugly, inhuman and ironic philosophy by the thinkers who choose to deny to God the very gentleness and compassion and love which, in their better moments, they find even in themselves." (Fr. Lord).

This is one school. In our next issue we shall deal with other schools of thought and see the true answer in our beautiful doctrine of the Mystical Body.

✠ LOUIS MATHIAS,
Archbishop of Madras-Mylapore

The 250th. Anniversary of the Death of Fr. Joseph Vaz PASTORAL LETTER

To

• The Clergy, Religious and Laity of the Archdiocese
of Madras-Mylapore

THE Venerable Father Joseph Vaz, as we are accustomed to call him for more than two hundred years, was born at Benaulim in Goa on 21st April 1651, the son of Christopher Vaz and Maria de Miranda of Sancoale in Goa.

He completed his literary studies in Old Goa in the Jesuit College of St. Paul, after which he entered the Academy of St. Thomas Aquinas for his philosophy and theology. After completing his studies with success, he was ordained Priest in 1676. He died at Kandy in Ceylon on the 16th January 1711, and therefore on the 16th January 1961 it will be 250 years since he died.

When the Madras Secretariate of Fr. Vaz desired to publish a brochure on "A New Saint for the New India" to commemorate his 309th. Birthday on the 21st. April, 1960, and at the same time to

promote the cause of his Beatification, We were asked by the compilers of the Brochure to honour it with a Foreword. Being Ourselves an admirer of his Saintly life and his Missionary activities for a number of years, all the more so that we always desired that India should have an Indian Saint, We wrote on that occasion :

"January 16th, 1961 will mark the 250th anniversary of the death of Ven. Fr. JOSEPH VAZ, son of India and Apostle of Ceylon.

We would like to see this anniversary fittingly commemorated in Our Archdiocese, because we

are convinced that the example of this outstanding Indian missionary will prove a source of inspiration to Our beloved Clergy and a call to many a young man to place his life at the service of Christ and His Church for the salvation of men, following in the footsteps of Fr. Vaz.

Hence we have asked the Fr. Vaz Secretariate of Madras to publish this collection of articles so as to give material for talks, conferences and study-group discussions on the life, methods and achievements of this apostle, the greatest *Indian* missionary.

India Needs Saints

"To-day India needs, above all, Saints and spiritual leaders, men like St. Vincent de Paul and Ven. Fr. Joseph Vaz.

When St. Vincent died in 1660, Joseph Vaz was a boy of nine. Did little Joseph ever hear of Monsieur Vincent? Probably he did not. But studying their lives, one can discover many a similarity between these two great lovers of God and men.

We hope that this publication will make the figure of Ven. Fr. Vaz better known and loved in his homeland and in Ceylon, the chosen land of his love and apostolate."

These few lines were written on the occasion of his 309th. Birthday, on the 21st. April 1960. But as we said above, the 250th. anniversary of his death is fast approaching and we thought seriously: Why should We not ask Our Diocesan Clergy, Religious and Laity

to intensify their prayers for a speedier Beatification of Venerable Father Vaz, all the more so because he was the *greatest* Missionary that India has produced and the *first* Indian Missionary to found the Congregation of the Oratory meant exclusively for Indians.

We do not entertain any doubt that he was providentially chosen by God to found the Oratory of St. Philip Neri. It was on the 25th. September 1685 and on the suggestion of Father Pascoal de Costa Jeremias that he was chosen the First Superior. The Congregation, which was eventually approved by Rome, consisted of only four members but the reputation of Father Vaz brought immediately two more members.

"The salvation of the faith in Ceylon was the first and the greatest work of the Oratory of Goa during its existence of a century and a half," wrote Fr S. G. Perera, S.J., the biographer of Father Vaz. "It was indeed the salvation of the Church in Ceylon. It did for the Island what no other religious order had done before or since". Whether Ceylonese or Indians, or Easterners or Westerners, we are all members of the Mystical Body of Christ and now, if the members of this body in Ceylon are suffering, we too are suffering, and it is our duty to pray to the Apostle of Ceylon for their needs.

Not only Ceylon, but we too in India are indebted to Father Vaz and his Oratorians. Before founding the Oratory, Father Vaz worked in the Missions of India.

The Mission of Kanara was evangelised by Father Vaz, where he was sent in 1681 as Vicar Forane and worked till 1684. He built a number of Churches in South Kanara, including Mangalore. In Ceylon, in spite of the difficulties, Fr. Vaz was able to contact a few Catholics who secretly led him to others. Ever in danger of arrest and death, he began an apostolate of reconciling apostates, encouraging the faithful, converting heretics and even Buddhists. Within twenty-three years of his apostolate Fr. Vaz, with the help of his Oratorians, succeeded in converting more than 100,000 souls. This is the summary of his extraordinary success.

Oratorians in the Archdiocese

Another reason that urges us to ask you, dear Diocesans, to pray for the speedy Beatification of Father Vaz, is because in our own Archdiocese We had Oratorians working. Our records give us the names of two Missionaries, Father Paulo de Sa and his nephew Fr. Mathias de Sa. Father Paulo de Sa worked not only in the former territory of the Archdiocese of Madras-Mylapore, in Cuddalore and Devanapatam, where he built Churches at his own cost, but he was appointed Prior of Our Metropolitan Cathedral of St. Thomas in Mylapore in 1709, and was also nominated Administrator of the Diocese of Mylapore during its vacancy. He helped financially the Oratory of Goa and left on his death all the big houses he had in Madras to the missionaries of the Propaganda Fide. Father de Sa was sent

to Pondicherry by the Bishop of Mylapore to receive Cardinal Tournon who had come as Papal Legate. The Cardinal asked him, on orders from Rome, about the missionary work of Father Vaz in Ceylon. Father de Sa wrote two letters to Father Vaz informing him about these enquiries, and communicating to him the Legate's thanks for his zeal and the services which he and his companions were rendering to Our Lord in that vineyard (Ceylon). The Legate spoke in great praise of his virtues and fame which, he said, had reached Rome. The Legate finally told him that Rome wanted full details of his Mission in Ceylon.

It is this connection of our Archdiocese with the Oratorians who were contemporaries of Fr. Vaz that impels Us to ask you to pray fervently for the beatification of the Founder of the Oratorians in Goa, members of which worked here.

The first Papal Delegate in India Mgr. Agliardi, later Cardinal, was the first to hold up for our imitation this outstanding Indian Saint, *not yet canonized*: "Father Vaz", he said, "can be termed a gem of the Indian Clergy. From him and his companions we can draw an argument showing the potentialities of a native clergy which has benefited from a solid ecclesiastical training and has stayed faithful in its vocation. And since this clergy has such potentialities for being devoted, learned, zealous and holy, as much as priests of any other country, we may presume to expect that the splendid exam-

ple of Father Vaz will bring all his compatriots to imitate him. And so the Catholic Church will have at her disposal another corps of apostolic men, men born there in the same beautiful country in which they work. I may say for certain that the destinies of the Christian Indies will depend—after the grace of God—on the development of the Indian clergy and the influence which that clergy will be able to acquire in the sphere of its own country's social action. The life of this Apostle of Ceylon, besides being a source of inspiration to devout souls, is convincing proof of what help we may expect for the missions from the local clergy when we shall have multiplied their numbers.”

Mgr. Zaleski, the third Delegate Apostolic in India, succeeded in convincing Rome “what an Indian Priest, well trained and full of apostolic zeal, is capable of.” He was speaking of Father Vaz. He expressed the wish that the day would dawn when Fr. Vaz would be beatified: “Indeed we have had Saints in India, but as yet do not have a single Indian (Confessor) Saint. . . . The beatification of an Indian Priest would no doubt give new encouragement towards the creation of an Indian Clergy. Without an Indian Clergy the mission will never be able to develop in this vast country, since the number of the missionaries sent from Europe can hardly meet the needs of the Christians, and in many places cannot cope with the situation. Yet we have to bring the Gospel to non-Christians.”

• Appeal to Priests

The last sentence quoted from Mgr. L. Zaleski, which was written at the beginning of this century, has special force and urgency in our days. We cannot speak any more of “the number of missionaries sent from Europe”; these have dwindled to a mere trickle, because of strict visa regulations in regard to the entry of foreign missionaries. Besides, the Church has been planted in India long enough to arrive at a stage when it should be self-sufficient in both personnel and funds. The last statistics available, those of 1958, tell us that we have 5,262 priests in the country to minister to 5,392,272 Catholics, which means that, on an average, one priest must look after more than a thousand Catholics. To use again the words of Mgr. Zaleski, our priests “can hardly meet the needs of the Christians and in many places cannot cope with the situation. Yet we have to bring the Gospel to non-Christians”. On our dear priests, therefore, lies the onus of providing themselves with more helpers in the sacred ministry and with successors to take their place in ever-increasing numbers. It is they who must recruit young men from their parishes and institutions, whom they have carefully formed in a heroic mould for a life of hardship and sacrifice in the cause of Christ, to continue their good work and form a zealous band of intrepid missionaries such as that produced by Fr. Joseph Vaz. Fr. Vaz must be our model in multiplying vocations and providing many missionaries, for he was the

founder of the first Indian religious community and of the first mission-aid society composed of Indians. We implore our priests to be zealous in this regard and make vocations to the priesthood their primary concern.

To Parents

On whom, along with our priests, rests the primary duty of increasing the inadequate number of Indian priests? Fr. Vaz's parents furnish the answer. Fr. Vaz from his earliest years gave clear signs of a divine call to the priesthood: a love of God and his neighbour, and a desire for self-effacement. His parents not only let him indulge his desire; they even fostered his priestly vocation. Parents, here you have a model to imitate. When you find such signs in your children, given to you by God to know and serve Him, do not let an opportunity pass without fostering these early signs of vocation. Parents, remember what Pope Leo XIII had already prophesied: "*Filii tui India, administri tibi salutis*" (Thy children, O India, will be ministers of salvation to thee).

To Doctors and Nurses

You too have an example of self-sacrifice in Fr. Vaz. He was the first to open a hospital in Ceylon at Kandy, where he nursed the sick and, during the great epidemic which devastated whole towns, he was the comforting angel at the bedside of every abandoned patient, whether Catholic, Calvinist or Buddhist. So much so that the Buddhist King of Kandy exclaimed: "Had it

not been for Fr. Vaz, the kingdom of Kandy would not have had a single subject left in the capital. Would that we had a few more priests of that kind in our kingdom." Here we have a point to examine our conscience. Have we laboured to this extent?

To Sodalists and Legionaries

Ad Jesum per Mariam (To Jesus through Mary). This is the principle that led Fr. Vaz to high Marian spirituality. He became a slave to Mary. It was on the 5th August 1877 that, at the foot of the altar of his parish Church at Sancoale in Goa, Father Vaz consecrated himself to the service of Mary and wrote that beautiful Act of Consecration that we recommend to every Sodalist and Legionary, because he was convinced that through Mary he would bring people to God. And he was not mistaken. It was through Mary that he brought Kanara and Ceylon to God. Here is how he began his Act of Consecration to Mary: "Know, you Angels, men and all creatures who may chance to see this letter of captivity, how I, Father Joseph Vaz, do hand over myself as a perpetual slave to the Virgin Mother of God, by a free, spontaneous, perfect and irrevocable self-surrender. I give my person and goods so that she may dispose of me and all that is mine at her pleasure, as my true Lady..."

To Catholic Actionists

Whether you are Catholic Workers, Legionaries, Sodalists, Members of the Conferences of St. Vincent de Paul or any other

Catholic Organization in Our Archdiocese for promoting the religious or social apostolate, you have in Father Vaz a fine example to be imitated for promoting the Lay Apostolate. It was an apostolate that embraced all spheres. We invite you to make a study of the life of Fr. Vaz and you will find the methods he used in his time are the methods advocated now, in every sphere of the Lay Apostolate. A Catholic Association will cease to be Catholic if it does not engage in some kind of apostolic work.

Since the 16th January 1961 will mark the 250th anniversary of the death of Venerable Father Vaz, We order that in Our Archdiocese the following celebrations be held :

1. Sunday 15th January 1961 be kept up with a special Mass and prayers to obtain the speedy beatification of Father Vaz. Let our Priests and religious explain to those under their charge the outstanding zeal of this missionary for souls, his catechetical work, and his efforts to save and spread the faith.

2. Let there be in every Parish and Institution talks, conferences and study-group discussions on the life, methods and achievements of this greatest Indian Missionary.

3. Since the expenses connected with the Process of Beatification will amount to not less than Rs. 50,000, and the Beatification of this illustrious son of India will definitely bring the salvation of India nearer, We request our people to give contributions for this purpose, which may be sent to our Diocesan Office to be forwarded to Rome.

May the Lord, through the intercession of Venerable Father Joseph Vaz, bless all Our beloved Diocesans—the Clergy, the Religious and the Faithful.

Let this Our Pastoral Letter be published in the January issue of Our Diocesan Organ, "Madras-Mylapore", and read in all our Parish Churches and Public and Semi-public Oratories in the Archdiocese on the first Sunday after its receipt.

Given from Our Archiepiscopal Residence at San Thome-Mylapore, on the 21st December, 1960, Feast of our Patron St. Thomas, under Our Sign manual and Seal, and subscribed by the Chancellor.

✠ L. MATHIAS, S.D.B.,
Archbishop of Madras-Mylapore.

A. Pereira de Andrade,
Chancellor.
Madras, 21st December, 1960

Prayer for the Ecumenical Council.

Dear Rev. Fathers and Heads of Institutions,

AT the suggestion and request of Rev. P. De Letter, S.J., professor in the Theological Seminary of Kurseong, His Grace our Archbishop arranged for a talk on the coming Ecumenical Council to be given to all the Diocesan Clergy of this Archdiocese at their monthly recollection held in the new "Sagayamatha Hall", St. Francis Xavier's Parish, Broadway, Madras, early in December last.

In that interesting talk the learned Professor explained briefly, first, the Theology of General Councils, the Constitution of the Council, and the urgency and needs of the proposed Ecumenical Council; he dwelt at length on the peculiar problems confronting the Church in the rapid attainment of freedom of nations hitherto under the surveillance of larger peoples, and the stabilising of the faith among nations where the Church has become an object of persecution by hostile forces; he vividly placed before us the enormity of the task of preparing for the Ecumenical Council and its eventual organisation and conduct; he stressed the importance and necessity of fervent and persevering Prayer to obtain from God the necessary lights and graces, to ensure the achievement and success of the Council, for the Pope and the Bishops and Doctors and the faithful. The same learned Professor was given the opportunity of speaking to the people also on the same subject, and in the sermon he preached in our Cathedral Basilica on the last day of 1960, he referred to the Ecumenical Council to be convoked

by our Holy Father Pope John XXIII as one of the benefits of the year for which we should thank God, and made a stirring appeal to the audience to add to their thanksgiving and Prayer timely sacrifices, in union with the Divine Saviour, for the Ecumenical Council and its success.

We publish below a beautiful Prayer, composed by the Sacred Congregation of Rites and indulgenced by the Sacred Penitentiary, for the Ecumenical Council. By order of His Grace our Archbishop, this Prayer should be recited with the faithful on all Sundays and Feasts of Obligation during Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament, before the Tantum Ergo, in all our Parishes and Institutions, from 15th. January 1961 till further orders.

Wishing you and your charges
a Happy New Year,

Yours sincerely,

✠ FRANCIS CARVALHO,
*Auxiliary Bishop,
Madras-Mylapore.*

15th January 1961.

Prayer to the Holy Spirit for the Success of The Ecumenical Council

Divine Spirit who, being sent by the Father in the name of Jesus, art ever at hand to assist the Church and direct her, unerringly; do Thou graciously pour the fulness of Thy graces, we pray Thee, on the Ecumenical Council.

Sweet Solace and Guide, illumine the minds of our venerable Prelates, who, readily answering the call of the Roman Pontiff, will gather together for the sessions of the Holy Synod.

Grant that an abundant harvest may be reaped from this Council; that the brightness and power of the Gospel may be increasingly felt in human society; that the practice of the Faith and its earnest propagation may flourish with added vigour, and that the happy issue may be a deeper understandings of the teachings of the Church and a more solid Christian life.

O Thou who dwellest in our innermost hearts establish our minds firmly in the truth and move our hearts in the ways of obedience, so that we may sincerely accept and readily execute what is determined by the Council.

We pray for those sheep too, who no longer belong to the one Fold of Jesus Christ, that as they glory in the name of Christ, they may come at last to be united under the rule of one only Shepherd.

Renew in our days Thy marvels as by a new Pentecost, and grant to the Holy Church that, persevering with one mind in earnest prayer, together with Mary the Mother of Jesus and under the leadership of St. Peter, she may extend the Kingdom of our Divine Saviour, the Kingdom of truth and justice, the Kingdom of love and peace. Amen.

[The Sacred Penitentiary has granted these indulgences: A *partial indulgence* of 10 years each time one recites the above prayer with devotion;

A *plenary indulgence* once a month under the usual conditions for the daily recitation of the same prayer for a full month.]

Imprimatur :

✠ FRANCIS CARVALHO,
Auxiliary Bishop, and V.G.

15-1-1961.

Christmas Tree at Stella Maris College

THE Christmas Tree! Who does not remember the joy of childhood, gazing with wonder at the glittering Christmas Tree hung with shining tinsel toys and coloured parcels, and lit with gay candles, while Father and Mother shared in the little ones' enjoyment?

But this happy scene, repeated every year in even the humblest home in the West, has no place in our poor Indian families who have scarcely a roof over their heads and often neither food nor clothing. So the Christmas Tree arranged by the Social Service students of the Stella Maris College is always eagerly awaited.

This year over 400 of our poorest friends were invited for the event. The students themselves had taken a large part, not only in giving donations and clothing but in preparing the gift-packets and decorating the stage where the gifts were arranged. They also, with great patience and good-humour, succeeded in keeping in order the turbulent little mob, ranging from babies of a few months to grandmothers—the latter no less vociferous than the former!

Lined up in the compound according to categories—the Sewing Class, the Catechism Class, the recipients of daily or weekly milk rations, the patients of the dispensary, the coolies and workers attached to the Convent and College—all gazed with awe at the Christmas Tree, its real pine-branches hung with coloured rattles, stuffed white rabbits, celluloid dolls dressed in the pink-and-orange colours so beloved of Indians. The little ceremony began with the singing in Tamil

of *Silent Night* and *Adeste Fideles* in front of the simple little crib. Then a College student gave a short address in Tamil, explaining clearly and simply the meaning of Christmas, so that Hindu and Christian alike might realise how great is the love of God Who came to earth to be poor like them. Then began the distribution of gifts by Rev. Mother Superior, each one receiving a named packet prepared beforehand, containing sweets, toys and clothes. The Indian mode of respect is to kneel with hands folded as if in prayer, and the little dark heads and wobbly brown legs of the tiny tots trying hard to kneel respectfully, reminded one of the little shepherd boys who must have knelt before the cave at Bethlehem so many years ago...

Wherever possible, family units were kept together, so that the poor mother might receive a big packet for the family, and have the joy herself of giving the presents to her little ones. Last in the line came the College attendants, men who have been with the College almost since its foundation, helping in the store-rooms and laboratories, or engaged in cleaning and messenger work. Today they stood, proudly introducing their young families—one with eight fine young children rejoicing in the names of Leo, Emmanuel and even Enoch...

and one man who had neither wife nor children brought along his old mother, who grinned a toothless smile of thanks at receiving a new saree . . .

After the 400 invited guests had all received their gifts, there remained a big circle of wistful on-lookers, attracted by the sight of the party from the road and nearby hut-settlements. There was, of course, no parcel prepared for them, but they could not be turned away so long as something was left, so they too, labourers of the eleventh hour, received some little thing to give them courage and hope. One of the students who had been helping unselfishly and cheerfully all day long was so loathe to send away a latecomer with no gift that she ran back to

the hostel; picked out one of her own sarees and spontaneously gave it to the poor woman . . . and this modern young "Francis" was a non-Christian girl!

As the little family groups moved off with their bundles of clothes and gifts, the children tooting their toy horns and sucking their sweets, while the students wearily tidied up the debris left behind, it was a question which were the happier—guests or hostesses. For charity, as Shakespear says of mercy, "is twice blest; it blesses him who gives and him who takes", and the spirit of Bethlehem thus finds its way into the loving hearts of many who do not yet know the glory of Divine Revelation.

Royapuram Young Men's Association

By P. Gnanandan

THE above Association was started with a view to promoting a spirit of camaraderie and to foster a sense of unity among the youths of Royapuram and to create the proper climate conducive to their moral, physical, intellectual and athletic advancement. To realise this end, the association has various activities.

The association was established in the year 1948 and functioned energetically for a period of nine years. Then there was lull in its activities for a period of one year. It was once again revived through the untiring efforts of Rev. Fr. Joseph Chollanal and with the kind permission of Very Rev. Fr. Hilarion Lourdes, our parish priest, who has kindly allowed the association to function at St. Peter's Church and also permitted the members to use the church compound for the various activi-

ties of their association. There were thirty members at the time of revival, and the membership has gradually increased to seventy-five at present. Football was the main game of the association at the time of revival, and gradually Volley-ball and Carroms were added, and a Library was introduced.

The Association conducts inter-league Football tournaments every year among its members, besides participating in many of the open tournaments, including His Grace

Dr. Mathias's and His Excellency Dr. Carvalho's Cup Tournament conducted by the Don Bosco Oratory, Broadway. They were the runners up in the latter event in 1959. This year the association has come up to the finals in the same event.

The Volley-ball section was introduced later, and the members evince much interest and enthusiasm and a marked improvement is noticeable in their play.

Carroms was also initiated to provide the members with good recreation after a day's hard work. Tournaments among the members are conducted every year and prizes distributed to the winners.

Library:—The association has a good collection of English and Tamil books, in addition to a number of magazines in the Library. A good number of books were received as donations from wellwishers of the association.

Social and Religious Activities

The members of the association help the parish priest in many ways. They decorate the Church on festive days, and mind the Oratory boys in the church during the services. They arrange games and picnics for the Oratory boys. The Association helped the parish priest when he conducted a fancy fete to raise funds for the Archbishop's Silver Jubilee fund. The Association also helped Rev. Fr. A. J. Stanislaus, Headmaster of St. Peter's High School, in organising and conducting the Fancy Fete which he organised to raise funds in aid of the poor students of the School. The association conducts a half-day retreat of its

members twice a year, which even the non-Catholic members attend.

Excursions

Arranging excursions to interesting and historical places is another important activity of the association. This year the members went to Gingee in the month of August, and enjoyed the trip thoroughly.

The association celebrated its anniversary in the month of November, and distributed prizes to the winners of tournaments and sports on the occasion.

The association has conducted film-shows, organised private raffles and collected donations in order to raise funds. Our thanks are due to all the well-wishers who have given generously to our association and we solicit their cooperation for the future, also for the smooth and successful running of the association. Our thanks are also due to the parish priest who has kindly allowed us to function in the parish and has given the church compound for us to play. We also thank Rev. Fr. A. J. Stanislaus for generously helping us in many ways and especially for allowing us to utilise his class-rooms for our functions.

Though our achievements are by no means noteworthy, and despite the vicissitudes of the past, we are undaunted and determined to put our best foot forward and face the future with confidence, courage and conviction, and with God's grace and goodwill, and co-operation from all, we should be able to write a brighter chapter in the history of this association in the coming year.

Lourdes Social Service, Perambur

"Illuminating Record of Work."

ON Monday the 12th December 1960 at 7 p.m. the Annual Day of the Lourdes Social Service, and the Carol Festival took place at the Railway Institute. It was indeed a very pleasant function. Mr. M. Ruthnaswamy, M.A., K.C.S.G., Bar-at-Law, presided.

The delightful dances performed by the children of St. Joseph's and St. Anne's High Schools and the items of English and Oriental music were most enjoyable. But the best was the lovely carols rendered by the Lourdes Shrine Choir, under the direction of Rev. Fr. Joseph Sandanam, S.D.B. The orchestral accompaniment enhanced the beauty of the rendering and afforded a real treat to the audience.

That the annual report of the Lourdes Social Service presented an illuminating record of splendid work done for the relief of the poor and distressed, was stated by Professor Ruthnaswamy in his concluding remarks. He also expressed the hope that other parishes in the city would emulate the fine example and spirit of sacrifice of the Lourdes Social Service. The following synopsis of the report will be read with deep interest.

Very Useful Relief

The Lourdes Social Service at Perambur continues to do very useful work among the poor and distressed, the Rev. Fr. Joseph Sandanam, S.D.B., being its President.

1. The Rice-Kitchen section gives to 50 poor people (22 Anglo-Indians and 28 Tamils) a square

meal twice a week. Against a collection of Rs. 104/- from the parishioners, the expenditure of the Rice-kitchen for the current year was Rs. 1,122/-

2. Under the Distribution Section 250 poor persons were given milk daily for the first five months and thrice weekly for the remaining portion of the current year. Up-to-date in the current year, food gifts consisting of wheat 220 bags, Indian corn 110 bags, rice 15 bags, milk 80 cases, cornmeal 70 bags, and all-purpose flour 90 bags were also distributed. Out of the above quantities 70 bags of cornmeal and 60 bags of wheat flour were ear-marked for relief to flood victims. For the above munificent gifts our grateful thanks are due to His Grace the Archbishop, Dr. Louis Mathias, S.D.B., and Mr. Armando E. Sonagere of the National Catholic Welfare Conference, Catholic Relief Services, U.S.A.

3. Under the auspices of the Conference of St. Vincent de Paul 27 families were maintained weekly with rice, wheat and Indian corn. Over Rs. 875/- was spent in the relief of the poor and distressed. At Christmas new clothes were given to the poor at a cost of Rs. 140/- 125 persons were served with a sumptuous New Year lunch and treat.

Besides this, the Distribution Committee spent a total sum of Rs. 1,819-75 on the relief of the poor and suffering by supplying clothes, arranging charity burials, paying house-rents, giving financial help, etc.

4. The Education Committee imparts to about 700 boys and girls a sound Christian education through Catechism classes, etc. and healthy recreation in its four flourishing Oratories. 32 poor children are also being educated by this section in various boys' schools and convent schools. A great educator is its weekly publication, *Boys' Life*. A total sum of Rs. 1,941/- was spent on the education and uplift of poor children.

5. The Entertainment Committee conducted a grand Christmas treat and sports for 650 Children. Whist Drives, Carol Festivals, Concerts and Socials were also organised to foster union, goodwill and friendly relations among the parishioners.

6. The Visiting Committee rendered valuable service by visiting hundreds of sick in hospitals and homes, effecting reconciliations, assisting at the death-beds of destitutes, and distributing thousands of Catholic periodicals, etc.

7. The Lourdes Charity Clinic, which enters into its second year, has done magnificent work under its Chief Medical Officer, Major W. B. A. D'Souza, D.M.S. During the year under review it has attended to a record number of 15,315 patients. The Lourdes Social Service spent Rs. 1373-06

on the clinic and received an income of only Rs. 280-75. Through the efforts of Major D'Souza a considerable supply of medicines was obtained from many leading firms of Madras and Bombay, for which we are very grateful. The Clinic, which now has three qualified Doctors in attendance, deserves more generous public support to enable it to afford greater consolation and relief to the sick and the suffering of the locality.

The function ended with a vote of thanks to the Chair, followed by the Carol "Glory to God", sung in excellent style by the Lourdes Choir.

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service and approaching the Holy Table.

The 27th of December was the day fixed for the annual Christmas Treat for the poor children of the Parish. On this day the hearts of over four hundred children were ringing with joy and merriment while they participated in the sports and other enjoyments that were organised for them. Later in the day the children were given a sumptuous treat with a Christmas gift each.

The last day of the year 1960 marked a day of triumph for the Eucharistic Lord, when from 7 o'clock in the morning parishioners and members of institutions took their turns and knelt before the Blessed Sacrament exposed, in fervent adoration, till it was solemnly concluded at 7 o'clock in the evening with the singing of the *Te Deum* and the imparting of Benediction.

AROUND THE PARISHES

ST. ANTHONY'S, PUDUPET Study Circle Meeting

The Study Circle Meeting was held on 11th December, 1960, with Mr. Rodriguez in the chair, when Mr. Clarence Motha, M.A. (Econ. Pol. and Hist.), spoke on "*Astronomy and Theology*". Dealing at length with the mysteries of the universe, its vast forces, its origin, and its rationality and harmony, the speaker proved the omnipotence, omnipresence and omniscience of God. He showed how grateful man ought to be to his Maker for the condescending care and bountiful love He showers on him. Explaining the views of renowned scientists like Newton, Pasteur and Einstein, he said that all of them believed in the presence of a superior reasoning Power, which is revealed in the incomprehensible universe. The speaker appealed to the audience to read authoritative books on this subject; to answer the arguments of the atheists and convince them of the existence of God. An interesting discussion followed the speech.

VEPERY

Christmas Tree at St. Andrew's

It was a genuinely impressive sight. 350 children had gathered around a gaily decorated Christmas tree. They were the guests of the Parish Priest, a privileged host of guests who had regularly attended the Sunday-evening Catechism class.

Many grown-ups present that Tuesday evening, the 27th Decem-

ber 1960, at the Church compound, must have imbibed the spirit of the party. To them it must have been a revelation of true Christian neighbourliness. For only simple and guileless hearts, bearing goodwill each to the other, can taste of the peace and happiness sung by the angels that winter's night over Bethlehem. Lost in their merriment throughout the long programme of carols, games and competitions, these young hearts were oblivious of caste or community, riches or poverty. The richly clad offered ready companionship to the less fortunate who had come from the cheries. What a lesson to the on-looker! All are equal in the eyes of the Creator!

A good Christmas feast awaited the young revellers. Their hearts were surely blither and gayer as they became the proud recipients of a sizable bag of sweets.

Many a child outside the gates of the church must have envied this large host of happy children as they wended their way home that evening of the party. But weren't they only justly rewarded for their diligence at Sunday class through the year? For this was the message of Rev. Fr. Raju to them, when he addressed them after the prize-giving. He told them that they were being rewarded for their attendance at Catechism class where they were taught to know Christ better. There could be no better celebration of Christ's birthday than when it is accompanied by the knowledge

of Christ, Who had been born to save mankind and to teach them the way to greater happiness with Him in Heaven. The Parish Priest congratulated the children on their regularity and exhorted them to greater diligence and punctuality at the Sunday evening classes.

The Parish is grateful to Rev. Fr. John who was responsible for this exquisitely decorated Christmas Tree, and to Mrs. Gomez and Mr. Edmonds who organized the very interesting items of the sports.

THE CATHOLIC SOCIAL GUILD

Seventh Annual Christmas Treat

When the time came round once again to consider ways and means of collecting funds to entertain 1,000 very poor children of the city, as in past years, there were some misgivings amongst the appointed Committee, in that the recent devastating floods had meant a big call on the purses of the generous ones of the city. However, the hearts of many were evidently wide open, because the collection so far exceeded hopes that this year we were able to extend hospitality to a further 200, making a total of 1,209 of the poorest children of the city. 900 of these were entertained altogether in St. Mary's Compound and Hall, and three hundred from the out-lying places which were most hit by the floods received their full quota of presents, sweets and food-bags. A few last-minute collections received has meant that we will be able to start next

year's Treat with a balance in hand.

The pattern of the Treat followed that of previous years, based on the experience gained in giving the best with the funds at our disposal. There were first the games, with about 50 excellent prizes, the Merry-go-Round, Punch and Judy, a drink of tea and biscuits, taken from the mug and bowl gifted to each, a bag of sweets and a balloon to be collected on entry into the gaily decorated hall, and lastly a large bag of edibles to be taken by each one.

Our thanks go to the Burmah Shell, whose Club Secretary, Sri P. S. Krishnasamy, kindly agreed to leave the decorations and Christmas Tree from their Club Tea-Party of the previous evening, to the generous donors, and collectors of both money and gifts in kind, to the tireless volunteers and the organisers of the games with their management of the excited children who enjoyed each event in orderly batches. His Excellency Bishop F. Carvalho and a few Guests had tea in the Hall and participated in the children's delight, so self-evident in their happy faces and laughter.

ST. ANTHONY'S, PUDUPET

Christmas Tree Celebration

On Wednesday, 28th December 1960, the feast of the Holy Innocents, the children of the parish held their Christmas Treat. This year special emphasis was given to the spirit of the Christmas season, that is, the birth of Christ was the centre of attraction,

For this, lots of holy pictures of Baby Jesus in the Crib, the Holy Family in the cave, a variety of the manger scenes, with appropriate greetings printed on the back of the pictures, were distributed.

A month before the occasion, preparations were made. Tickets were distributed, plans went on for the conducting of sports, toys were purchased, bags were made for sweets, and refreshments ordered. The whole parish buzzed with intense activity. The various sub-committees got started. There were the Sports Committee, the Toy Committee, the Donations Committee, the Refreshment Committee, down to the small boys with their Bag-and-Balloon Committee. Each committee worked as so many cells in a big parish effort to make the function a success and to give everyone an opportunity to contribute his or her effort and talent.

The day began with Holy Mass said by the Parish Priest, Rev. Fr. P. Michael, when the church was packed with children. After Holy Mass the children were blessed. In the afternoon at 3 o'clock there were sports and games items in which the boys and girls contested enthusiastically and keenly. There was even an item, "Parcel Passing", for the organisers. After sports the children assembled in the school hall, where they sang a Christmas Carol, "O come, all ye faithful". Rev. Fr. P. Michael, our Parish Priest, distributed the sports prizes. Father Christmas arrived and the children welcomed him most lustily, of course, after

relieving him of his bunch of balloons. Then came another interesting item (the sports were the first), the distribution of Christmas Gifts to every child. Each child received first a Christmas Greeting, then a toy or useful article from Santa Claus, and a bag of sweets and cakes. The children with their parents went home feeling happy and satisfied.

The success of the Christmas Treat was due to the kind and generous co-operation of the organisers who were congratulated at a Party on Friday, 30th December 1960, after Benediction of the Most Blessed Sacrament. At this party shortcomings were taken note of, for future improvement, and proposals and other suggestions were recorded for implementation at the next Christmas Treat.

The Y.C.W., girls and boys, the Legion of Mary members, and the Parish Club members contributed to the success of the function.

SACRED HEART SEMINARY, POONAMALLEE

Apostolic Internuncio's Visit

On 5 December the Seminarists had the privilege and joy of seeing His Excellency Dr. James Knox, the Internuncio, in their midst for the fourth time. His Excellency arrived at the Seminary at 6-45 a.m. to celebrate the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. His Excellency's reverential demeanour at the altar was a source of inspiration to the seminarists, who are to repeat the same liturgical act one day.

During the breakfast which followed the Mass, one of the deacons read a welcome address on behalf of the staff and the seminarians. Referring to the last visit, when His Excellency brought His Eminence Cardinal Agagianian to the seminary, the Rev. Deacon went on to say that the seminarians entertained a utopian presumption that His Excellency would bring the Sovereign Pontiff Himself. "Nevertheless we are not at all disappointed," he said, "because in the person of Your Excellency we see the Supreme Pastor Himself".

In his reply His Excellency exhorted the seminarians to imitate the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus in his love for men, and also in His virtues of meekness and humility. After breakfast Very Rev. Fr. Rector took His Excellency round the seminary, especially to the new building under construction, because it is an eloquent expression of His Excellency's keen interest and solicitous care for the Sacred Heart Seminary. At 9-15 a.m. His Grace arrived, to accompany His Excellency to the various mission stations of the Archdiocese. Indeed His Excellency's stay with us was short, but the impression he made on us is deep.

Immaculate Conception

In spite of the busy days of the examinations, the seminarians celebrated the feast of the Immaculate Conception on the 8th December, with polyphonic singing during the Solemn High Mass and an operetta captioned "Refugium Peccatorum," in the evening. The

operetta was presented by the Sodality of the Immaculate Conception after long and strenuous preparation.

Picnic

Once the exams. were over, the seminarians were out on foot for a "Rusticatio" to Pallavaram, thus finding relaxation for their taut nerves. This was on the 14 December.

The alumni are grateful indeed for the three interesting and illuminative conferences on "Catechetics and Priestly and Pastoral Life," given by Mgr. R. Arulappa, Prior of St. Thomas' Basilica, Mylapore, on the 15 December.

Christmas

For the great feast of Christmas nearly all the Theologians went out at the request of the Parish Priests of our diocese to assist them, some as Deacons, others as Sub-deacons, and still others as Masters of Ceremonies. Thus they were able to demonstrate already in the seminary that a priest is not ordained for himself but for others—*Christianus sibi, Sacerdos aliis*.

On Christmas Day the community spent a pleasant evening at the "Christmas Tree". They were grateful indeed for the presents, tangible tokens of the generosity of Very Rev. Fr. Rector.

Oratory Picnic

On 29 December the Oratory Boys of Poonamallee and the surrounding places emerged early in the morning from their homes like busy bees and swarmed in the

seminary, eager to enjoy the Annual Picnic. The boys numbered about 750. The Brothers marched with their respective groups, some to bus-stops and others to the Railway Station. Mahabali-puram, Poondi, St. Thomas' Mount, the Zoo, the Harbour, were but a few of the picnic spots visited. A greater act of generosity on the part of the superiors and some sacrifice on the part of the seminarians enabled these boys, nearly all non-Catholics, to share in our Christmas joy.

On many days of the Christmas holidays the seminarians of Poona-mallee were busy with their tournaments and annual sports. And on the last day of the year, valuable prizes distributed by Very Rev. Fr. Rector crowned the success of the athletes.

In the evening there was the monthly hour of Adoration before the Blessed Sacrament, followed by the thanksgiving service, concluded by a Solemn Benediction. The seminarians are happier now to begin another term with the oncoming New Year 1961.

CHURCH OF OUR LADY OF GUIDANCE, MYLAPORE

As usual, a Christmas Treat for children was arranged and conducted by the Parish Priest, Rev. Fr. A. S. D'Rozario, on New Year's Day, in the Parish Church premises, with the help of the money contributed for the purpose by the parishioners.

The function was presided over by Mr. S. M. Susai Prakasam, an elderly parishioner. Almost all

the children of the parish attended the treat. A pretty large number of the parishioners, both men and women, were also present. Young men and women of the parish, including some teachers, helped in keeping order.

From 3 P.M. the children were, by turns, given free rides in a Merry-go-round hired and fixed for the purpose within the church compound, while gramophone records of Catholic songs were being played with pick-up and loud speakers. After this, Miss Daniel, a teacher of the parish, briefly explained to the audience the significance of the treat. There was then an orchestral concert given by the Lady of Guidance Association. Rev. Br. Kolandairaj of St. Paul's Seminary, Trichy, belonging to this parish, gave a brief talk on the birth of Child Jesus.

The Parish Priest thanked the parishioners for their liberal contributions for the treat. He expressed appreciation of the work of some young men and women of the parish, who had been of help to him in the parish work during the past year, and thanked them specially. The President exhorted the parishioners to be grateful to the Parish Priest for his zealous work in the parish and to manifest their gratitude by scrupulously following his lead in all spiritual and congregational matters both in and out of the church.

After distribution of packets containing sweets and savouries to the children, the function came to a close at 7 p.m.

MATER DOLOROSA, ROYAPURAM

• The month of December has been one of much activity. To begin with, there was one week of reparation in behalf of the people of Ceylon from the 4th to the 11th of December. • On the 8th the feast of the Immaculate Conception of Our Lady—a group of children made their first Holy Communion at an impressive ceremony. The children were later treated to a Chota hazri by the authorities of St. Kevin's Convent.

The Novena in preparation for Christmas started on 16th December and consisted of the singing of the Christmas hymn followed by Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament. Midnight Mass to coincide with the birth of Our Lord was celebrated with great solemnity. Reservation of seats in the main body of the church is a practice which has come to stay, and every available seat was taken up. The Church choir rendered choice carols a quarter of an hour before the start of the service. The solemn High Mass was celebrated by the parish priest, the Very Rev. Fr. G. H. Lourdes, assisted by Rev. Fr. Innaya and a cleric from Poona-mallee Seminary. The birth of Christ in a lowly manger being symbolic of love was the theme of a short yet touching sermon given by Fr. Lourdes.

* * *

The Mother of Dolours Parish Club held its annual Whist Drive and Dance on 27th December. As usual the function was well attended.

The following day it was the turn of the tiny tots, for whom a programme of sports followed by a treat was arranged. • A Merry-go-round was also provided, and was in great demand. With each passing year the number of children participating in this function keeps on increasing, testifying to its popularity. This year it was 310, among whom 57 were treated free. A number of late applicants had to be denied admission. A word of thanks is due to the Parish Priest and to the Rev. Mother of St. Kevan's for their generous donations.

* * *

Thanks to Almighty God for favours received during the year were offered on 31st December, with "Te Deum" and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament.

* * *

The Mater Dolorosa Church was the scene of a very pretty wedding on the 2nd January 1961 when Mr. Ivan Storey was united in Holy Matrimony to Miss Loretta James. The church was profusely decorated and the wedding ceremony, performed by the parish priest, the V. Rev. Fr. G. H. Lourdes, was very largely attended. Promptly at 5 p.m. the bride, who was given away by her father, entered the church dressed in a gorgeous nylon dress; she presented a picture of loveliness enhancing her natural charm and beauty.

The reception, which was even more largely attended, was held St. Mary's Hall, Armenian Street. The toast of the bride and bridegroom was proposed by the Very Rev. Fr. Lourdes. He said he

ST. TERESA'S, NUNGAMBAKAM

felt intense pleasure in being asked to perform this function, inasmuch as the parents of the bride and groom represented some of his best parishioners. The large gathering present was ample testimony of the esteem and popularity with which they were held. He said that Mr. & Mrs. James particularly had been well known for their ever willing help in parish activities—a fact to which even previous parish priests would readily testify. He felt happy, he said, that the children of two such godfearing and model Christian parents should be brought together in holy matrimony. He paid a warm tribute to the couple who possessed all the virtues requisite for a peaceful married life. Concluding, he expressed the hope that the love with which they had begun their courtship would endure throughout their entire life. In asking the large gathering to drink to their health, Fr. Lourdes invoked upon them the blessing of the Almighty.

The bridegroom, Ivan Storey, responded to the toast. He thanked Fr. Lourdes for the kind things said about himself and Loretta. He said that the tribute paid to them should actually be attributed to their parents, who were mainly responsible for any good that was apparent in them. He was grateful, he said, to all those present for their good wishes and beautiful gifts, and hoped that they would spend an enjoyable evening.

Dancing then began with the Bridal March, and continued till almost midnight.

December, the festive month all over the world, brought with it many happy and holy celebrations to the parish of St. Teresa. Beginning with the feast of the Immaculate Conception, a triduum was conducted in preparation for this feast, with Rev. Fr. Arulswamy, S.J., director of the Retreat House, preaching on all three days. The feast-day itself was celebrated with a High Mass in the morning; in the evening a finely decorated car bearing the statue of Our Lady Immaculate left the Church with the solemn chiming of bells to be taken in procession around the compound. The celebrations came to a close with Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament.

Then came the feast of St. Thomas, coincidently the patron of the Archdiocese and of our Parish Priest. This rendered celebrations in our parish inevitable. This was an occasion for the parishioners to express their gratitude and love for the spiritual and temporal care received at the hands of their pastor. The occasion was graced with a grand variety entertainment in honour of the Parish Priest.

Almost immediately followed the feast of Christmas, with Solemn High Mass at midnight. This perhaps was the climax of the festive season, with the parish choir almost excelling itself with its fine singing and with the vast number of faithful attending the

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OFFICIAL NOTIFICATIONS

Abstinence is to be observed on all Fridays of the year.

Fast and abstinence together are to be observed on Ash Wednesday (15th. February), Good Friday (31st. March), Vigil of the Immaculate Conception (7th. December), and Ember Friday of Advent (22nd. December, instead of the Vigil of Christmas). Eggs and milk products are permitted on the days of Fast and Abstinence, both in the morning and evening.

Addenda to the Ordo: On page 84*, No. 424 of New Code of Rubrics 1960, between *b* and *d*, add: *c) Missa dominicae II Passionis seu in palmis, quae sequitur benedictionem et processionem ramorum.* This is only a printing omission in the Ordo, which is given in the official edition in the Acta Ap. Sedis. Rectification is given on page 37 of the Ordo.

Quarterly returns of marriages, corresponding to the quarter ending on 31-12-1960, should be submitted to the Diocesan Curia by the end of January, so as to be sent to the Registrar of Marriages.

Those Priests whose ordinary and extraordinary Faculties expire on 31-3-1961 should send their pagella for renewal in the first week of March 1961.

By virtue of the Diocesan Statute 1082, the financial statement of Accounts of Parishes and Institutions for the year 1960 is to be submitted by Priests to the Rev. Treasurer before 31-1-1961.

Supplement to the Ordo: 4-2-1961 (Saturday before *Sexagesima* Sunday.) Feast of St. John de Britto, M. II Class. Red, Semifestive Office, without I Vespers. Commemoration of St. Andrew Corsini in Lauds only, and in Mass. Vespers of the Feast, with the privileged commemoration of following Sunday (See Nos. 105, 109, 111 c of New Code and Tabella Concurrentiae).

For Confirmations to be administered up 30-6-1961, the Rev. Fathers will please make previous arrangements, as early as possible, with the Most Rev. Ordinary.

The Priests who have not taken copies of Inventories are requested to take them from the Diocesan Curia. One copy of the Inventory as on 1-1-1961 must be submitted to the Curia duly filled in, before the end of February 1961.

Clergy Recollection Monthly Meetings: On 6-2-1961 at San Thome, and on 7-2-1961 at St. Thomas's Mount.

20-1-1961: Titular Feast of St. Sebastian's Church in Madhavaram. In this Church, II Vespers of the Feast, with no commemoration.

11-2-1961: Titular Feast in the Shrine of Our Lady of Lourdes in Perambur. In this Church II Vespers of the Feast, with commemoration of following Sunday.

Festive Office of I Class in these two Churches. The Priests attached to these Churches are bound to observe these Feasts as such, both for the Office and Mass. No octave.

A. Pereira de Andrade,
Chancellor.

15th January 1961.

NOTICES

Information and Employment Bureau

The Catholic Centre, Madras I

In February 1958 the Bureau was opened at the Catholic Centre with the main object of supplying information of all kinds, likely to be useful to students and others, with regard to their education, their careers and their employment. The Bureau also had, as its second objective, to follow up the applications and obtain jobs for the applicants wherever possible.

Information obtained from the daily papers and the Fort St George Gazette was sent to registered applicants. To date 77 positions have been secured for those on the books of the Bureau. The majority of these jobs have been in the technical or clerical lines.

At the desire of His Grace the Archbishop, it is now proposed to extend the work of the Bureau so as to receive applications for domestic staff and for such posts as watchmen, peons, etc. To make the Bureau really useful,

attention must be given to both aspects, i.e., there must be on the books the names of more employers desiring staff. On the other hand, it is hoped that those who send potential employees should see that they really can be recommended. The policy of the Bureau must be maintained, that would-be employers can feel that those sent from the Catholic Centre Employment Bureau have a good character and can satisfy normal requirements. The Management therefore hopes that there will be co-operation from all sides, both as regard requests for employees and the registration of sound applicants.

Rev. Fr. M. Joseph Rock, 59, parish priest of Poonamallee, passed to his eternal reward at 2.40 a.m. on Monday 9th January at the presbytery of Luz Church, after receiving the Last Sacraments from Fr. P. J. Kurian. The same evening, after the Office for the Dead, Mass and funeral service, at which the Archbishop presided, he was laid to rest in the adjoining cemetery.—R.I.P.